

**Rocky Hill Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 09/02/10**

Location: Borough Hall, Rocky Hill

Members in attendance: Lisbeth Haines, MD, Presiding; Susan Fisher, DVM; Mary Germain, EdD, APN-BC; Beverly Poelstra, MD; Peggy Querec, MSN, RN.

Also Present: Ms. Linda Goldman, President, Rocky Hill Borough Council; Ms. Dawn Prandi, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, representing the Somerset County Department of Health.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Haines at 4:37p.m., prior notice having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231.

Review and Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 06/08/10. Corrections: "I Cuisine", in bullet # 3 under Report of SCDOH Representative, changed to I Quisine"; last two sentences under New Business – add space between "a" and "focus" and add "to" between access and health, to read - "...access to health care services...". Motion by Dr. Poelstra, seconded by Dr. Fisher, to approve the Minutes as amended. Unanimous approval of the motion.

Report of the SCDOH Liaison (Ms. Dawn Prandi):

- ❖ Board of Health Report, Rocky Hill Borough, 06-01-10 to 06-30-10 distributed to all members of the Board:

Two Public Health Complaints were under investigation:

1. Status of hand-pump well on cement slab: Letter dated 08/05/10 from SCDOH to the Estate of resident who owned Block 3, Lot 2, Rocky Hill re: clarification of status of hand pump well on the property was returned as undeliverable. The law requires abandoned wells to be permanently sealed at the owner's expense. Ms. Goldman will determine who is currently paying the taxes on the property so that another letter can be sent to the appropriate person; the former resident is deceased. If the well is permanently abandoned and has been sealed, paperwork must be filed with the NJDEP.
2. Letter dated 08/05/10 from SCDOH to the owner of the property at Block 4, Lot 18, Rocky Hill has not received a response. Inspection of the property revealed multiple structures with large open areas that could potentially harbor rodents/vermin. The letter advised the owner to respond in writing to the SCDOH within 30 days, indicating the status of repairs and including a plan for completion for bringing all structures on the property into compliance with the Borough's housing code.

One Communicable Disease (Hepatitis C) was also under investigation. Ms. Prandi will ask the SCDOH Epidemiologist to generate quarterly reports re: incidence in RH.

Old/Continuing Business:

1. Municipal Alliance: No report.

2. H1N1 Flu: CDC has declared it to be contained; no longer poses a threat of a pandemic. Discussion of the Annual Flu and Pneumonia Vaccination Clinic ensued. Ms. Prandi was asked to contact the First Reformed Church of Rocky Hill and see if they are again willing to provide space for the clinic. The Clinic should be held sometime between the last week of October and the first two weeks of November. The day of the week is negotiable; the clinic has traditionally been held on Thursdays, from 10am-12 noon. RH residents will not be charged. Medicare will be billed for residents who have Medicare coverage. No appointments will be necessary. Flyer to be developed for posting at strategic locations in the Borough. SCDOH will provide the professional personnel to staff the clinic.
3. Tree Hazards: Ms. Goldman informed the BOH that the Borough's Shade Tree Commission has been disbanded and reconstituted as a Shade Tree Committee. She noted that the State gives local Shade Tree Commissions pervasive powers – e.g. to go onto private property; mandate compliance with tree removal orders... Ms. Goldman reported that she had rewritten the local ordinance to transfer the powers of the former Shade Tree Commission to the Borough Council. The Council is expected to adopt the new ordinance at its next meeting.
4. Noise Annoyance: Dr. Germain reported that the recent trash pick-ups from the commercial establishments at the Princeton North Shopping Center seem to be occurring at more reasonable hours – i.e. approximately 6:15 am. She will continue to monitor the situation and bring it up for action if the pick-ups revert back to a much earlier time in the morning. The noise from the pick-ups particularly affects the ARC residential home located immediately behind the dumpsters.
5. Dog and Cat Survey: has been completed. 12 unlicensed animals were found during the survey. 72 dogs and 32 cats are currently licensed. A \$316 profit has been realized from the annual licensing program, all of which will be placed in the Animal Trust Fund. Dr. Fisher was commended for writing the licensing ordinance, for selecting and setting up the software and overseeing the successful implementation of the survey.

New Business:

1. Property Inspections: A complaint was incorrectly lodged with the South Brunswick Department of Health instead of the SCDOH regarding the property located at Block 4, Lot 18 referenced in the Report of the Liaison from the SCDOH. The State Housing Code – Ch. 64(Unfit Buildings), Ch. 110 (Housing Standards), and Ch. 140 (Property Maintenance), and detail compliance requirements for residential buildings. Ms. Goldman stated that a copy of the SCDOH letter to the property owner has been sent to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) requesting that the DCA representative, Bob Ward, also send a letter to the owner of record stating the need for immediate repairs to the structures on the property. To date, there is no evidence of any repairs being made. A formal structural review has not been conducted by the Borough or DCA. The issue is further complicated by the fact that the structures are located in the historic district of the Borough. If demolition of any structure is required, DCA would have to so order. Ms. Goldman stated that the Borough's Unfit Buildings Ordinance (No. 1-69) needs to be rewritten. She noted that State law allows municipalities to make needed repairs if the owner can demonstrate a financial inability to do so. The Borough would then create a lien against the property. An update on this issue will be presented at the next meeting of the BOH, at which time Ms. Goldman will present the rewritten Unfit Buildings ordinance.

2. President Haines reported that Rocky Hill has applied for a grant to purchase and install a pedestrian crossing sign the junction of Route 518 and Crescent Avenue.
3. Meeting notice: The NJ Association of Local Boards of Health meeting for BOH members will be held on Saturday, 9/25 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.
4. Licensing fees for establishments serving food: under the previous contract with the South Brunswick DOH for the provision of public health services, non-profit organizations which served food were only charged a fee of \$25.00. It was reported that under the new contract with the SCDOH, the RH Hook and Ladder Company was charged \$50. Fees for churches were waived for this year. Ms. Goldman stated that the ordinance could be amended to stipulate that non-profit organizations would only be charged a fee of \$25.00. The Board was in unanimous agreement and asked her to write the amendment.
5. Hepatitis B vaccination of volunteers for the Borough's First Aid Squad and the RH Hook and Ladder Company: Dr. Germain asked if there was any validation that new members of these organizations had received the required Hepatitis B vaccination? Ms. Querec stated that it was her understanding that the leaders of both organizations were fully informed about the requirement and insured that all new members complied.

Lisbeth Haines 9/30/10 12:23 PM

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Next Meeting Date & Time: Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 4:30p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dr. Fisher, seconded by Ms. Querec, with unanimous consent by the members. The meeting was adjourned by President Haines at 5:58p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Germain, Ed.D., ANP-BC
Secretary pro tem